THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) No Sir. No obsolete coaches are running on trains in the country including on Western Railway. The useful economical life of a passenger carrying coach is about 25 years Therefore, at any given time, coaches of various age profile are running safely on trains. As and when coach becomes uneconomical to maintain, they are withdrawn from service and are replaced by new coaches.

Laying of Railway Line

4094. SHRI P. kODANDA RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey to lay a railway line between Chitradurga and Rayadurga in Karnataka has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the construction work of this long pending railway line would start; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) The construction of Chitradurga-Rayadurga new line has already been completed and opened to traffic on 31.8.94.

Rail Link from Raughat to Jagdalpur

4095. SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to connect Raughat to Jagdalpur for extending this railway line for transport of iron-ore from Bailadila to Bhilai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time frame in which this railway line is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction of Dallirajahara-Rowghat-Jogdalpur new broad gauge line (235 kms.) has been included in Railway Budget of 1995-96 at an estimated cost of Rs. 369 crores. SAIL will bear the actual cost of construction between Dallirajahara and Rowghat (95 kms.). Work can be taken up after the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and deposit of money by SAIL and other parties. Ministry of Steel are awaiting final clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests to use of Bailadila Mines, and have indicated that they would sign the MOU and release the amount only after the clearance from MOEF is received. The target for completion of the line would be fixed once the work is started.

Construction of Railway Bridge on Ganga

4096. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for construction of Railway bridge over Ganga, connecting Patna and Sonepur is pending for a long time with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and progress made in this regard so far; and

(c) the reasons for delay in the implementation of the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The final location survey and detailed investigations for the bridge has been taken up.

Arms Dropping in Purulia

4097. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the accused involved in the arms dropping case in Purulia have been apprehended;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the objectives of arms dropping have been ascertained;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS : (SHRI INDERJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b) The Central Bureau of Investigation, who are investigating the matter relating to arms dropping in Purulia have initimated that the CBI have filed charge sheet against 13 accused persons. Of these 13 persons, 6 are in judicial custody and the remaining 7 persons are absconding. CBI have also arrested one more person from Bihar in June, 1996. He is also in judicial custody.

(c) and (d) The investigation conducted by the CBI so far has revealed that the fire arms etc. were meant for a section of Anand Margis, who are having allegiance to Proutist Universal, which is an Anand Marg Organization. Proutist Universal is having political objectives and has offices in many countries in the world.

(e) Government is alive to the situation and are taking all steps in this regard which include gearing up of intelligence machinery, stricter enforcement of existing regulations by the concerned Departments/Organizations and a closer coordination between the concerned Central and State agencies.

Inferior Quality Rifles

4098. SHRI RAMSAGR :Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Army Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur has supplied inferior quality rifles to the Border Security Force;

(b) if so, whether Border Security Force has accepted the same without any testing their quality;

(c) the number of rifles supplied to B.S.F. and other security forces and police found to be non-working;

(d) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General has adversely remarked against the Home Ministry in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS : (SHRI INDERJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (c) Army Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur had supplied 10,000 Nos. of AK-47 rifles each to BSF and CRPF, out of which 196 Nos. and 20 Nos. were found to be defective respectively. As per the directions of the Ministry of Defence, normal inspection procedure of the weapons was dispensed with.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The matter has been taken up with Ministry of Defence to get the defective rifles replaced by the supplier.

Development of Coastal Rail Line

4099. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the development of the coastal railway line between Ernakulam and Kayamkulam via. Alleppey; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) A survey for the proposed coastal line has been taken up. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Parcel Porters

4100. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Parcel Porters working under the Labour Cooperative Societies on the Northern Railway have filed cases in High Court/Supreme Court for their absorption as Class IV employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration to abolish the contract system totally in Northern and South Eastern Railway to give social justice by way of giving permanent status to the parcel porters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following cases have been filed in the Supreme Court of India;

(i) Shri Raghavendra Gumast tha V/s Union of India and Others—One Petition.

(ii) National Federation of Railway Porters, Vendors and Bearers V/s Union of India—Four Petitions.

(iii) The National Federation of Railway Parcel Porters V/s Union of India and Others—One Petition.

(iv) National Federation of Railway Porters through its General Secretary and Others V/s Union of India—Three Petitions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

New Stoppages

4101. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new stoppages of express and other important trains provided at various stations in Kerala during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have received further representations for providing more stoppages of important/Express trains in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) During 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, 6, 6 and 16 additional stoppage of express trains have been provided in Kerala.

(b) and (c) A number of representations for stoppages are received at different levels of Railways administrations which are duly examined and action as found feasible and justified is taken.

Air Brake System

4102. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of trains running with air brake system, zone-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide air-brake system to some more trains; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?